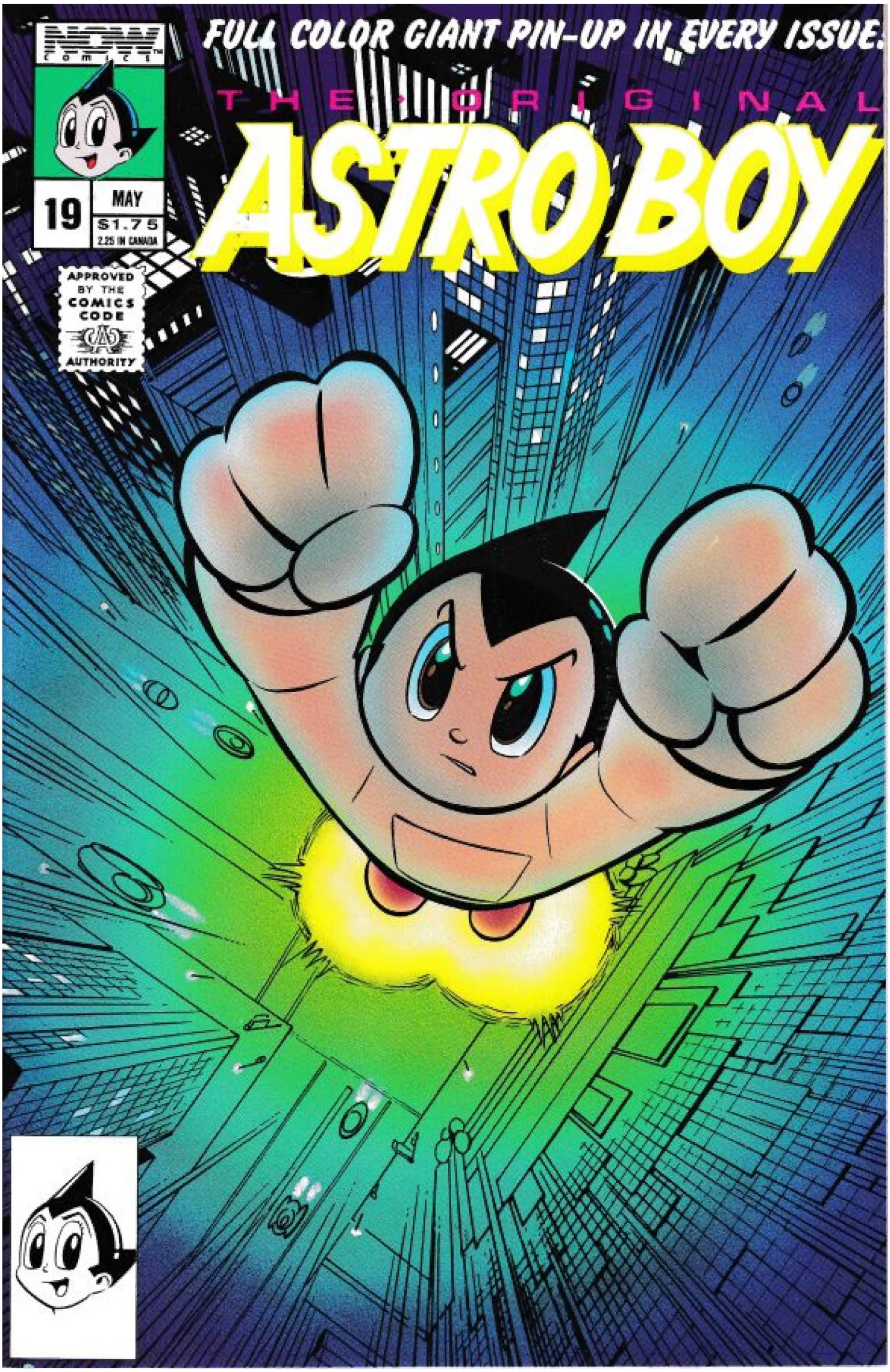

NEW COMICS
FULL COLOR GIANT PIN-UP IN EVERY ISSUE!
THE ORIGINAL
ASTRO BOY
19
MAY
$1.75
2.25 IN CANADA
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

NOW ON SALE!

RACER-X 8
By Steve Sullivan, Vince Argondezzi, Rich Rankin, Marc Hansen
THE RETURN OF THE MAMMOTH CAR! This is Part One of a Two-parter. You can read the highly dramatic and violent conclusion one week later in SPEED RACER #20!
MONTHLY!!

ASTRO BOY 19
By Brian Thomas & Marc Hansen
Someone is trying to stop one the most important meetings in history!
MONTHLY!!

SPEED RACER 20
By Steve Sullivan, Neil Vokes, David Mowry, Dan McKinnon
SPEED has joined in on the crusade to stop THE RETURN OF THE MAMMOTH CAR!!
MONTHLY!!

THE REAL GHOSTBUSTERS 9
By James Van Hise, John Tobias, Rich Rankin & Barry Petersen
Part One of the epic three part FATHER TRILOGY! Don't dare miss it!
MONTHLY!!

TERMINATOR 8
By Ron Fortier, Thomas Tenney, Jim Brozman, Suzanne Dechnik.
Beginning the final battle which will be an uphill climb to meet the famous John Connor!
MONTHLY!!

RALPH SNART 8
By Marc Hansen
Special TAKE THIS JOB AND SHOVE IT! issue.
Approved by THE COMICS CODE!!!??
MONTHLY!!

FRIGHT NIGHT 7
Jim Van Hise, Doug Murphy & Katherine Llewellyn
ALL NEW STORY!!!! Part Two of a two-part Demon-wolf story!
NEXT ISSUE: EVIL ED!!!
MONTHLY!!

RUST 4
By Katherine Llewellyn, and Jeff Lauberstein.
The story of Scott Baker. Not an ordinary man, but a monster!
MONTHLY!

SLIMER! 1
By Hilarie Staton, Dave Schwartz, Jorge Pacheco, Gary Fields and Suzanna Dechnik.
Fun for the whole family!!
Draw Slimer contest!!
MONTHLY!

THE ORIGINAL ASTRO BOY 19

THE ORIGINAL ASTRO BOY Vol. 1 No. 19 ISSN 0895-7495, MAY 1989. Published monthly by NOW COMICS (A division of Caputo Publishing, Inc.) 332 South Michigan Avenue, Suite 1540, Chicago, IL 60604. ASTRO BOY and all other characters in association with the 1964 black-and-white series as televised through syndication is a trademark and copyrighted 1988 by SUZUKI ASSOCIATES INTERNATIONAL, INC., Tokyo, Japan. All other characters and material unless otherwise indicated is copyrighted 1988 NOW COMICS. All rights reserved. Absolutely no reproduction permitted without written permission from publisher. Any similarity between any person living or dead and/or institution is purely coincidental. Printed in the USA.

WRITTEN & ILLUSTRATED BY
BRIAN THOMAS
LETTERED, COLORED BY
MARC HANSEN
COVER BY
BRIAN THOMAS & MARC HANSEN
ORIGINAL STORY AND CHARACTERS BY
DR. OSAMU TEZUKA

THE OFFICIAL STAMP OF APPROVAL!

The COMIC MAGAZINE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA was formed back in 1954. It's goal was to insure the quality of the comics you can purchase on your local newstand. The quality of editorial content is very carefully observed by the CMAA, (A.K.A. THE COMICS CODE).

NOW COMICS has been approved for its quality and consist editorial commitment.

We at NOW COMICS are very proud to be a member of an association with a thirty year old dedication to comics and their growth.

Will our comics change? No.

They have been approved as they are. So why is this seal of approval important?

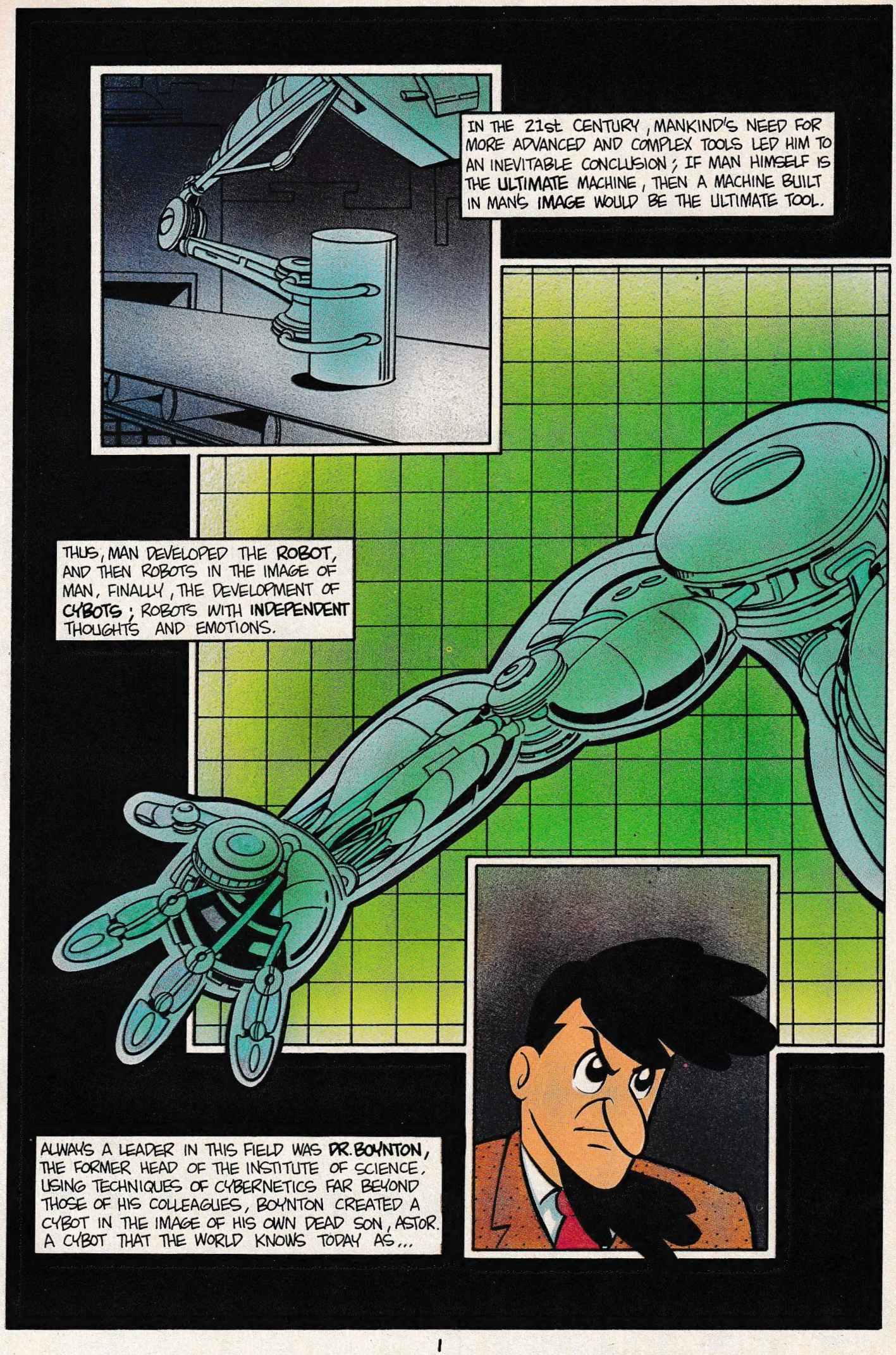
Well, beside the obvious fact of keeping with a tradition over three decades old, you already may know the other reason. Is this the first NOW COMICS you've ever seen? If it is, that means that the retailer you purchased it from was waiting for that seal of approval before carrying this product.

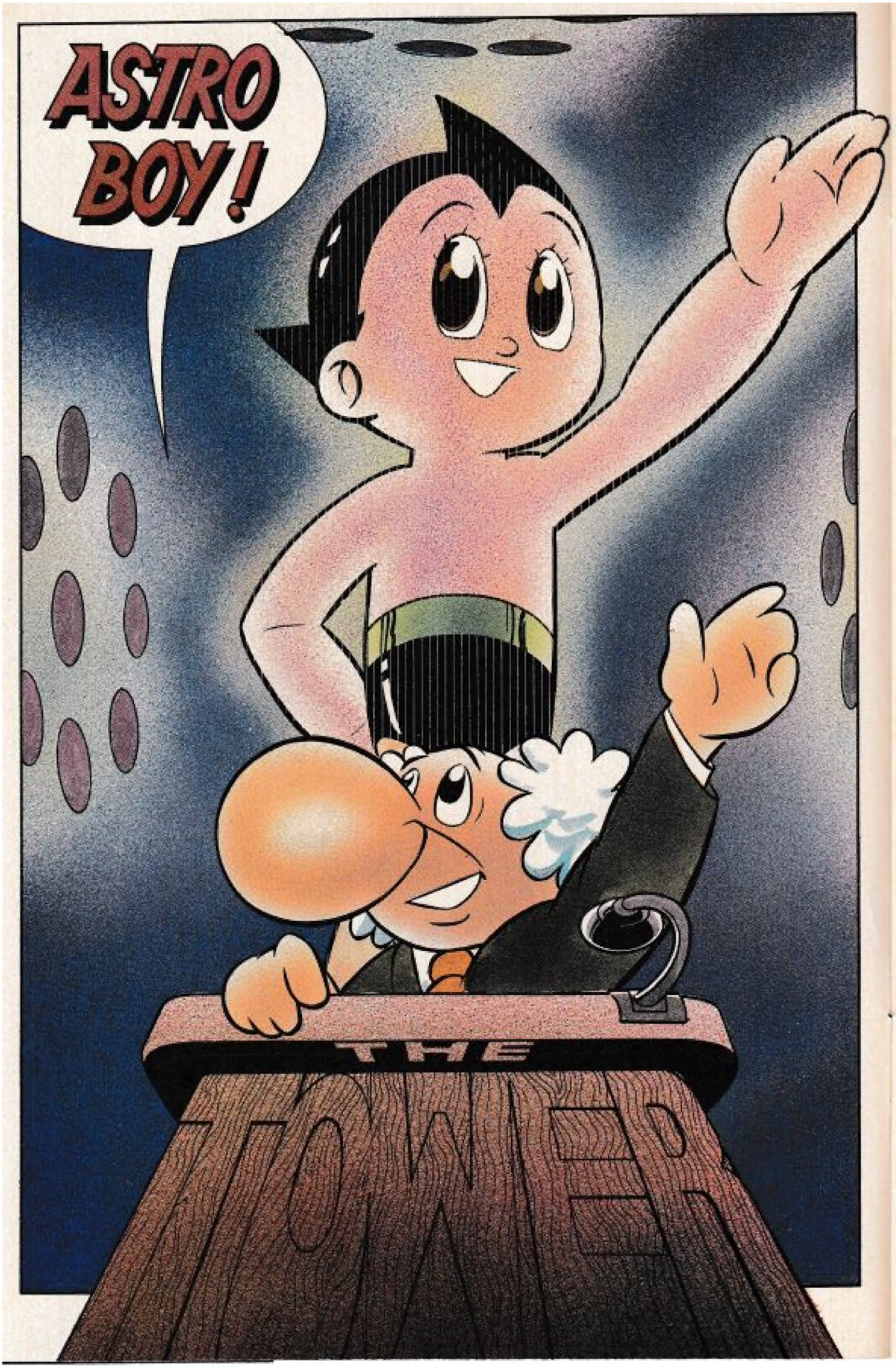
NOW COMICS is going into more outlets then ever before. You will be able to pick up NOW COMICS where you've never seen them before!

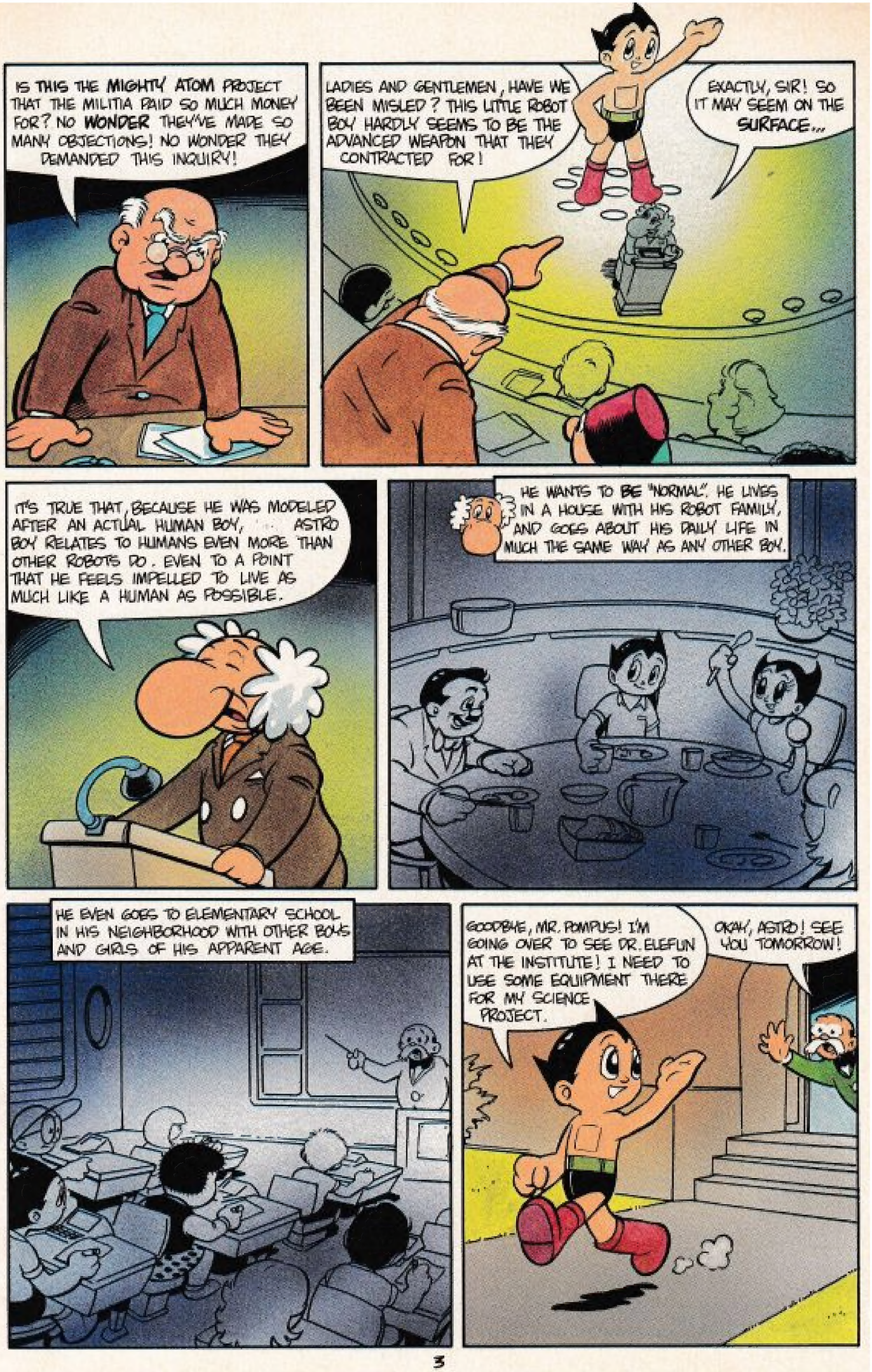
And although all NOW COMICS will take you to new heights of adventures and outrageous new limits of humor. Tell everyone that ***NOW*** IS THE TIME!

And you won't have to drive across town to get it!

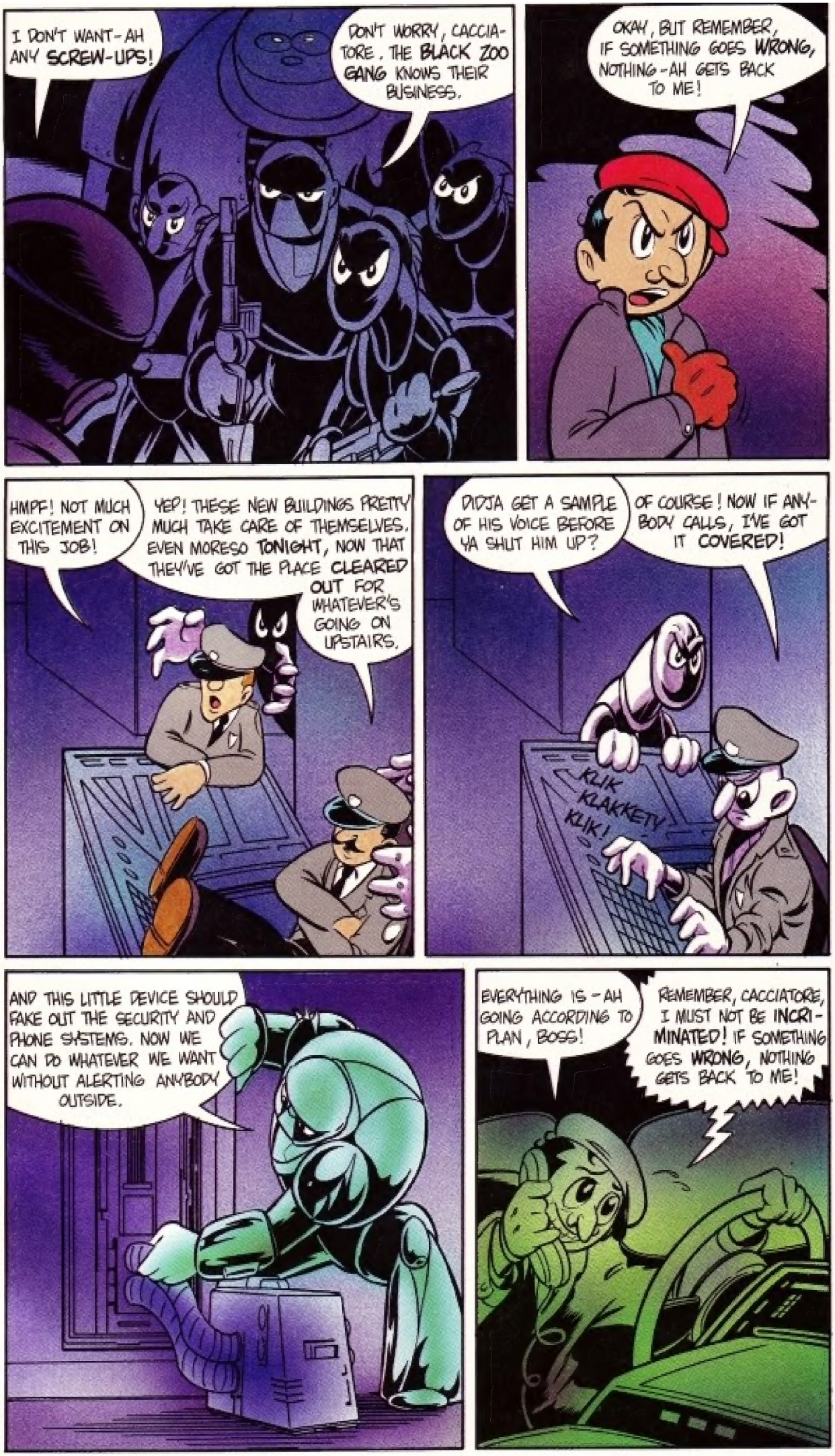
Tony Caputo
Publisher


IN THE 21st CENTURY, MANKIND'S NEED FOR MORE ADVANCED AND COMPLEX TOOLS LED HIM TO AN INEVITABLE CONCLUSION; IF MAN HIMSELF IS THE ULTIMATE MACHINE, THEN A MACHINE BUILT IN MAN'S IMAGE WOULD BE THE ULTIMATE TOOL.
THUS, MAN DEVELOPED THE ROBOT, AND THEN ROBOTS IN THE IMAGE OF MAN, FINALLY, THE DEVELOPMENT OF CYBOTS; ROBOTS WITH INDEPENDENT THOUGHTS AND EMOTIONS.
ALWAYS A LEADER IN THIS FIELD WAS DR. BOYNTON, THE FORMER HEAD OF THE INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE. USING TECHNIQUES OF CYBERNETICS FAR BEYOND THOSE OF HIS COLLEAGUES, BOYNTON CREATED A CYBOT IN THE IMAGE OF HIS OWN DEAD SON, ASTOR. A CYBOT THAT THE WORLD KNOWS TODAY AS...


ASTRO BOY!
THE
TOWER


IS THIS THE MIGHTY ATOM PROJECT THAT THE MILITIA PAID SO MUCH MONEY FOR? NO WONDER THEY'VE MADE SO MANY OBJECTIONS! NO WONDER THEY DEMANDED THIS INQUIRY!
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, HAVE WE BEEN MISLED? THIS LITTLE ROBOT BOY HARDLY SEEMS TO BE THE ADVANCED WEAPON THAT THEY CONTRACTED FOR!
EXACTLY, SIR! SO IT MAY SEEM ON THE SURFACE...
IT'S TRUE THAT, BECAUSE HE WAS MODELED AFTER AN ACTUAL HUMAN BOY, ... ASTRO BOY RELATES TO HUMANS EVEN MORE THAN OTHER ROBOTS DO. EVEN TO A POINT THAT HE FEELS IMPELLED TO LIVE AS MUCH LIKE A HUMAN AS POSSIBLE.
HE WANTS TO BE "NORMAL". HE LIVES IN A HOUSE WITH HIS ROBOT FAMILY, AND GOES ABOUT HIS DAILY LIFE IN MUCH THE SAME WAY AS ANY OTHER BOY.
HE EVEN GOES TO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN HIS NEIGHBORHOOD WITH OTHER BOYS AND GIRLS OF HIS APPARENT AGE.
GOODBYE, MR. POMPUS! I'M GOING OVER TO SEE DR. ELEFUN AT THE INSTITUTE! I NEED TO USE SOME EQUIPMENT THERE FOR MY SCIENCE PROJECT.
OKAY, ASTRO! SEE YOU TOMORROW!

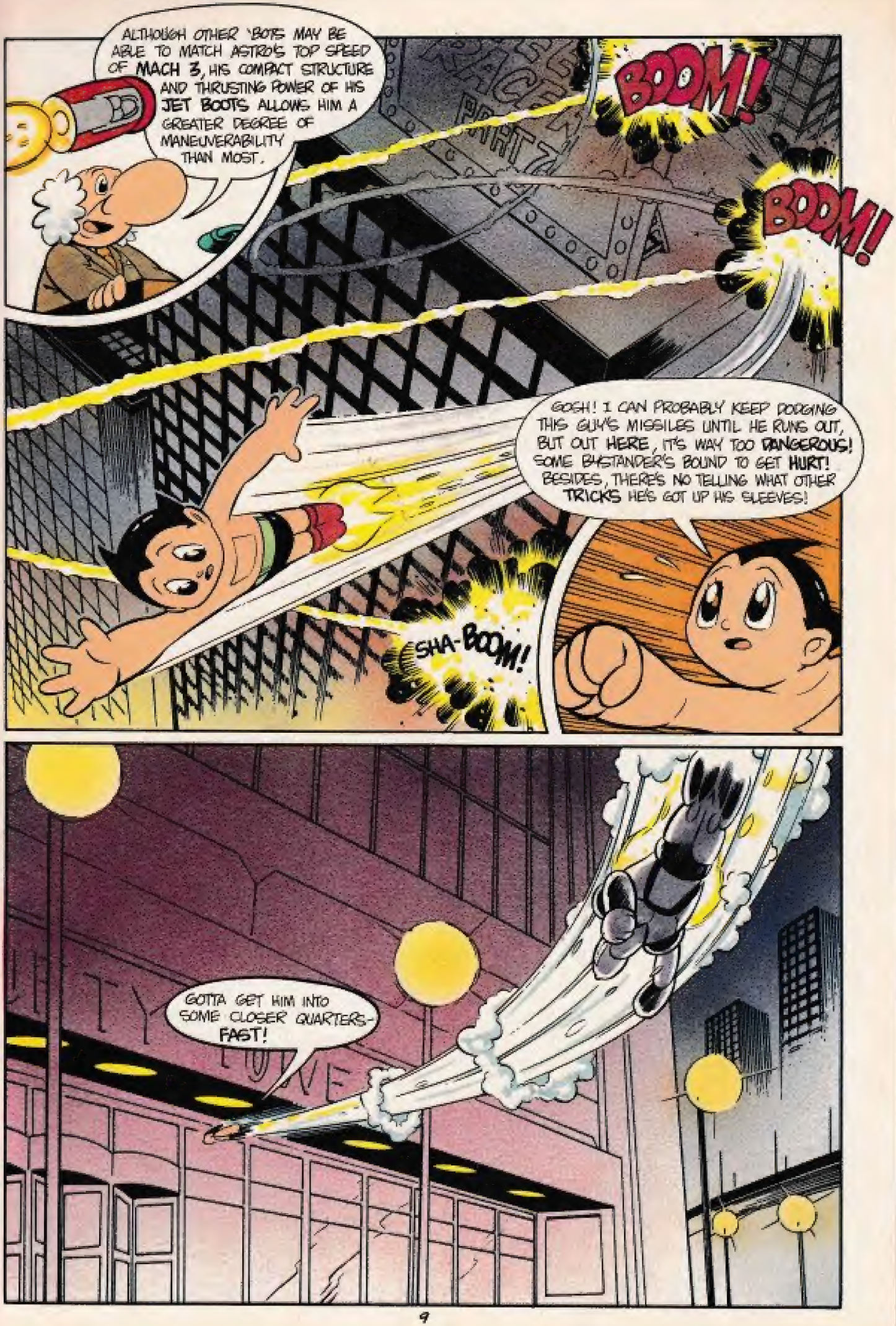
PARK
OKAY, IT'S ALMOST-
AH TIME! YOU GUYS
ALL KNOW THE PLAN?


I DON'T WANT-AH ANY SCREW-UPS!
DON'T WORRY, CACCIATORE. THE BLACK ZOO GANG KNOWS THEIR BUSINESS.
OKAY, BUT REMEMBER, IF SOMETHING GOES WRONG, NOTHING-AH GETS BACK TO ME!
HMPF! NOT MUCH EXCITEMENT ON THIS JOB!
YEP! THESE NEW BUILDINGS PRETTY MUCH TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES. EVEN MORESO TONIGHT, NOW THAT THEY'VE GOT THE PLACE CLEARED OUT FOR WHATEVER'S GOING ON UPSTAIRS.
DIDJA GET A SAMPLE OF HIS VOICE BEFORE YA SHUT HIM UP?
OF COURSE! NOW IF ANYBODY CALLS, I'VE GOT IT COVERED!
KLIK KLAKKETY KLIK!
AND THIS LITTLE DEVICE SHOULD FAKE OUT THE SECURITY AND PHONE SYSTEMS. NOW WE CAN DO WHATEVER WE WANT WITHOUT ALERTING ANYBODY OUTSIDE.
EVERYTHING IS-AH GOING ACCORDING TO PLAN, BOSS!
REMEMBER, CACCIATORE, I MUST NOT BE INCRIMINATED! IF SOMETHING GOES WRONG, NOTHING GETS BACK TO ME!

I'VE FINISHED RUNNING MY CHECK. THE ONLY ACTIVITY IS IN THE TOP FLOOR AMPHITHEATER,
UP ON THE 300th FLOOR.
ALTHOUGH HE APPEARS AVERAGE, ASTRO BOY IS ACTUALLY ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL ROBOTS IN THE WORLD! NO SMALL FACTOR IN THIS EQUATION, IS HIS HIGHLY DEVELOPED BRAIN...
"THOUGH HUMAN IN MOST WAYS, IT IS ALSO HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED CYBERNETICLY AND COMPATIBLE WITH ALL COMPUTER SYSTEMS."
I'M SORRY, ASTRO BOY, BUT DR. ELEFUN HAS ALREADY LEFT FOR THE DAY.
THAT'S FUNNY. HE ONLY WORKED A TEN HOUR DAY.
CAN YOU GET IN TOUCH WITH HIM? I WANT PERMISSION TO USE SOME OF HIS LAB EQUIPMENT.
LET'S SEE...
THAT'S STRANGE. HE DOESN'T APPEAR TO BE AT HOME, OR AT ANY OF HIS USUAL WHEREABOUTS.
PING PING
EXCUSE ME A MINUTE, PROF. TAMIL'S ASSISTANT NEEDS SOMETHING.
HMM...

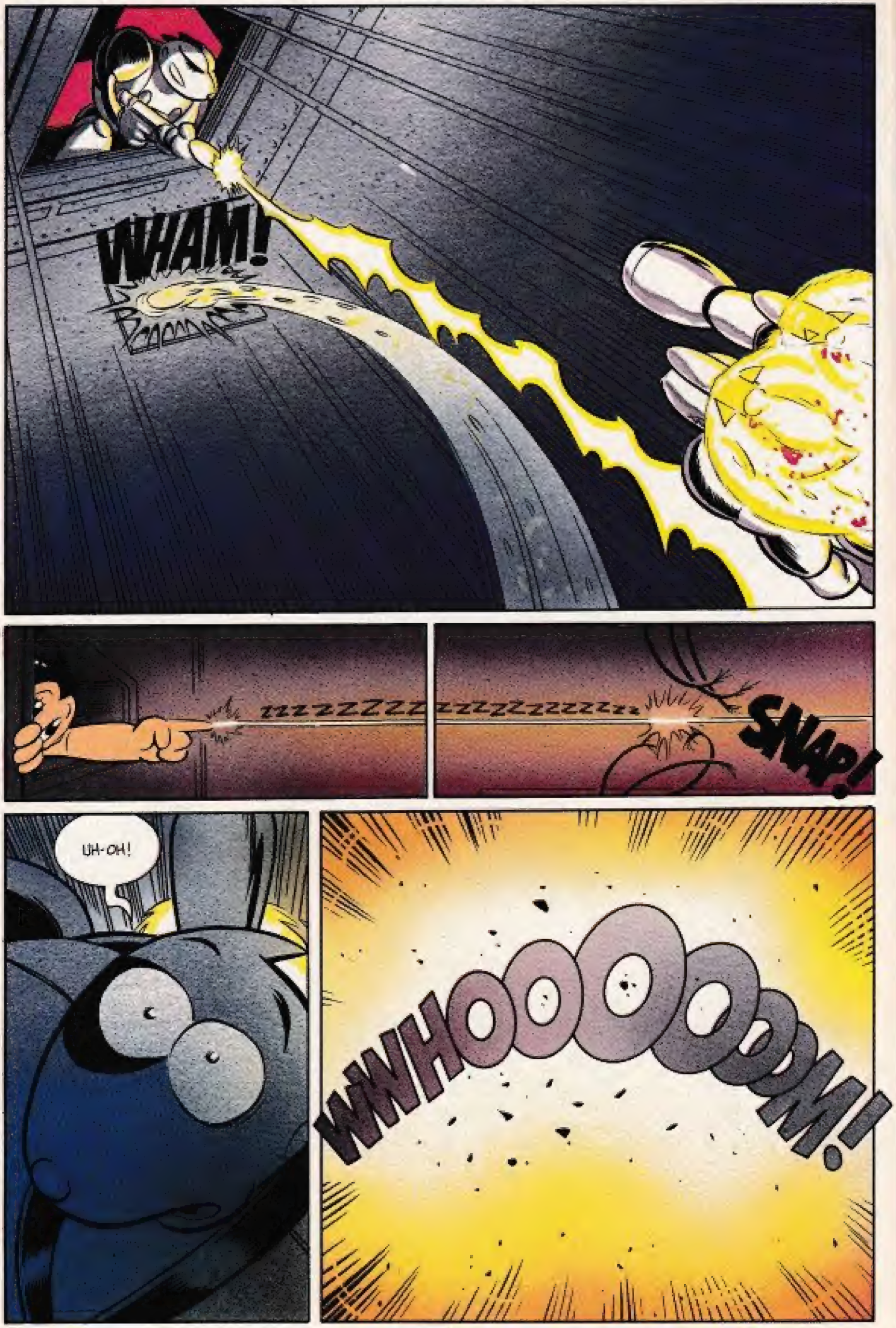
NOTHING ON HIS SCHEDULE FOR TONIGHT. IT'S UNUSUAL FOR DR. ELEFUN TO BE INCOMMUNICADO. NOTHING IN HIS FILES, EXCEPT A CODED MESSAGE HE GOT THE OTHER DAY.
I KNOW I SHOULDN'T BUT...
WHEW! THAT CODE WAS TOUGH TO BREAK! AFTER ALL THAT, JUST A TIME AND PLACE.
5:30 PM
LAUFTY TOWERS AMPHITHERTER
"A BUILT-IN RECEIVER ALLOWS ASTRO TO COMMUNICATE ON MOST RADIO FREQUENCIES."
I KNOW IT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS, BUT LAUFTY TOWERS IS ON MY WAY HOME ANYWAY. I MIGHT AS WELL CHECK ON THE SECURITY CHANNEL, JUST TO SEE...
THIS IS WATCHDOG. I'M IN POSITION UP ON FIFTY.
"WATCHDOG"? HO-HO!
SO HOW LONG IS IT GOING TO TAKE YOU GUYS TO KNOCK OFF THOSE BIG CHEESES UPSTAIRS?
!

"ASTRO'S EYES ARE EQUIPPED WITH TELESCOPIC, INFRARED, NIGHT VISION, AS WELL AS COMPUTER ENHANCEMENT CAPABILITIES."
HEY, MONK, I THINK I'VE BEEN SPOTTED! THERE'S SOME KIND OF FLYING 'BOT COMING AT ME!
WELL, GET OUT THERE AND DIVERT HIM! KILL HIM IF YOU HAVE TO, BUT GET HIM AWAY FROM HERE!
CLICK!
ROGER!
SHOOOOM!
FSSSS!
FSSSS!
FSSSS!
YIPES!

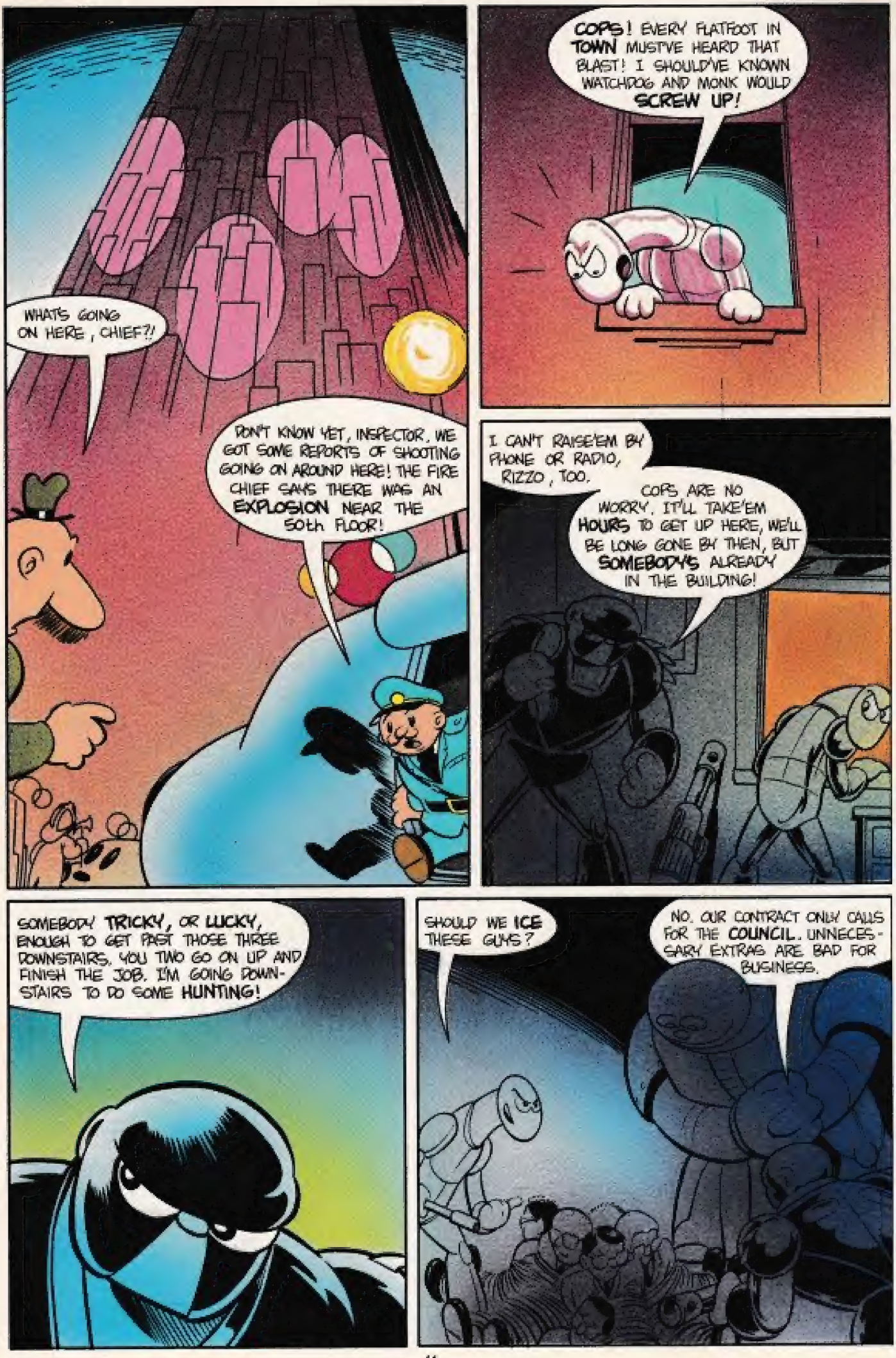

ALTHOUGH OTHER 'BOTS MAY BE ABLE TO MATCH ASTRO'S TOP SPEED OF MACH 3, HIS COMPACT STRUCTURE AND THRUSTING POWER OF HIS JET BOOTS ALLOWS HIM A GREATER DEGREE OF MANEUVERABILITY THAN MOST.
BOOM!
BOOM!
GOSH! I CAN PROBABLY KEEP DODGING THIS GUY'S MISSILES UNTIL HE RUNS OUT, BUT OUT HERE, IT'S WAY TOO DANGEROUS! SOME BYSTANDER'S BOUND TO GET HURT! BESIDES, THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT OTHER TRICKS HE'S GOT UP HIS SLEEVES!
SHA-BOOM!
GOTTA GET HIM INTO SOME CLOSER QUARTERS- FAST!

WHERE'D HE GO?! WHERE'D HE GO?!
I DUNNO! HE WENT BY SO FAST!
WELL, LET'S GET AFTER HIM!
WUP WUP WUP WUP
0-77
"HE CAN EXTEND HIS SENSE OF HEARING TO RANGES FAR BEYOND THOSE OF HUMAN EARS."
"AND, LEST YOU THINK THAT HE'S WITHOUT OFFENSIVE ABILITIES, THERE ARE POWERFUL LASERS INSTALLED IN HIS FOREFINGERS."
7-11
ZZZZZZ
MEGA ZAP 1000
HAW! GUESS NOBODY TOLD YOU ABOUT OUR REFRACTORY COATING!
12-23
OH, WELL!
POP!
HAVE TO TRY TO GET A WARNING TO WHOEVER'S UPSTAIRS!
AH-HAH!

KABOOM!
FSSSSSS
EXPRESS
BLAM!
HEY, RIZZO! WE HAVE AN INTRUDER! HE TOOK OUT MONK AND FLEW UP THE ELEVATOR SHAFT! COME DOWN IN THE CAR, AND WE'LL CATCH HIM BETWEEN US!
YEAH, YEAH. JUST LEMME GET THE TRAP DOOR OPEN, AND I'LL BE RIGHT DOWN!
99
ZZAP!
BOOM!
BOOM!


WHAM!
zzzzzzzz
zzzzzzzzzzz
SNAP!
UH-OH!
WWHOOOOOM!!

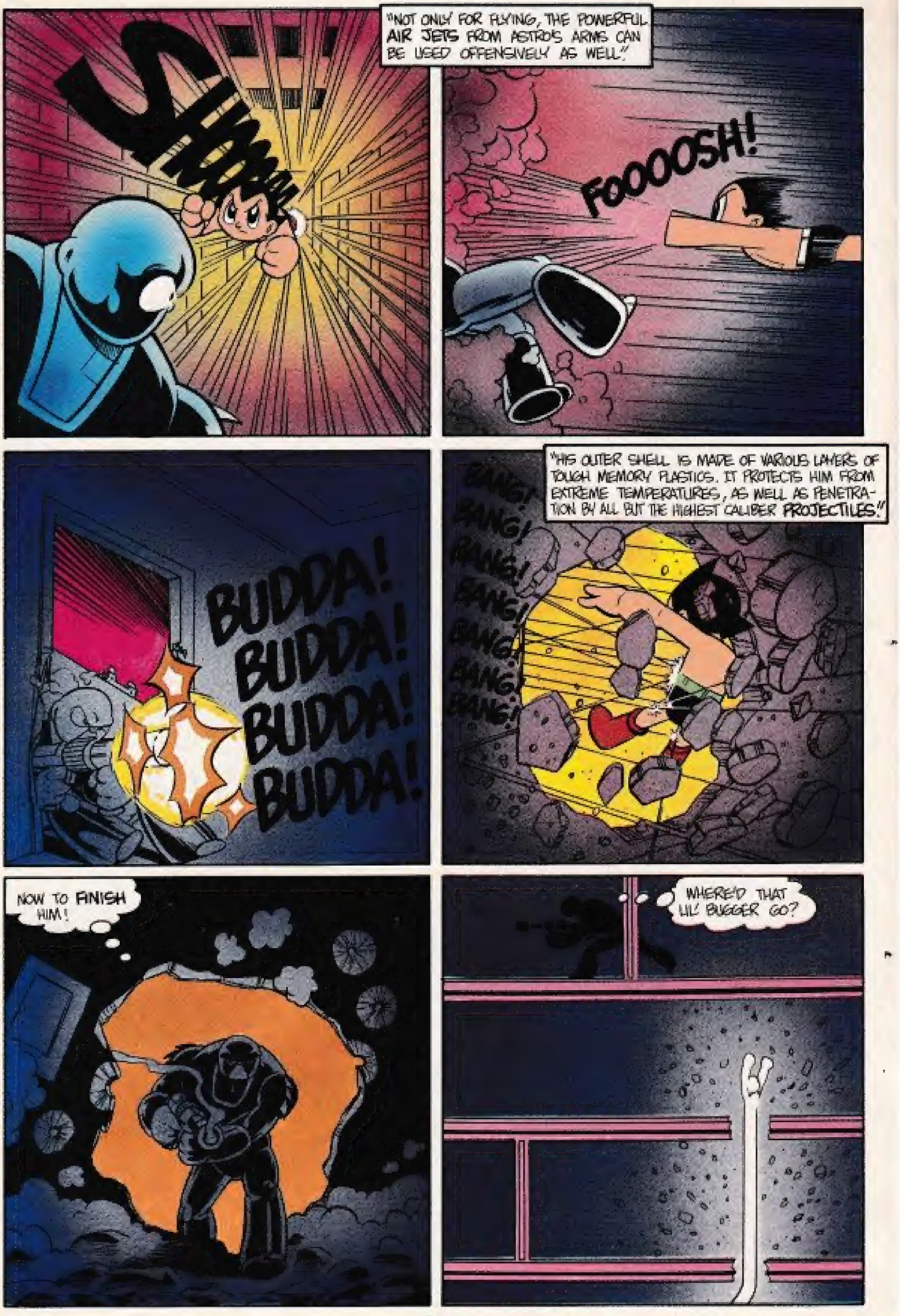
WHAT THE-! THAT SOUNDED LIKE AN EXPLOSION!
SOUNDED LIKE IT CAME FROM INSIDE THE BUILDING!
300
I CAN'T GET THROUGH TO THE LOBBY! ALL THE PHONES ARE DEAD!
ELEVATORS ARE OUT, TOO. YOU TWO STAY HERE, THE REST, COME WITH ME, AND KEEP YOUR WEAPONS READY.
THIS FLOOR'S ALL CLEAR!
WHEW! THESE STAIRS ARE KILLING ME!
QUIET! LET'S KEEP GOING.
NO TELL'N W-WHAT'S DOWN HERE.
DOWN
WELL, WELL! WHAT HAVE WE HERE?!
STAIRS

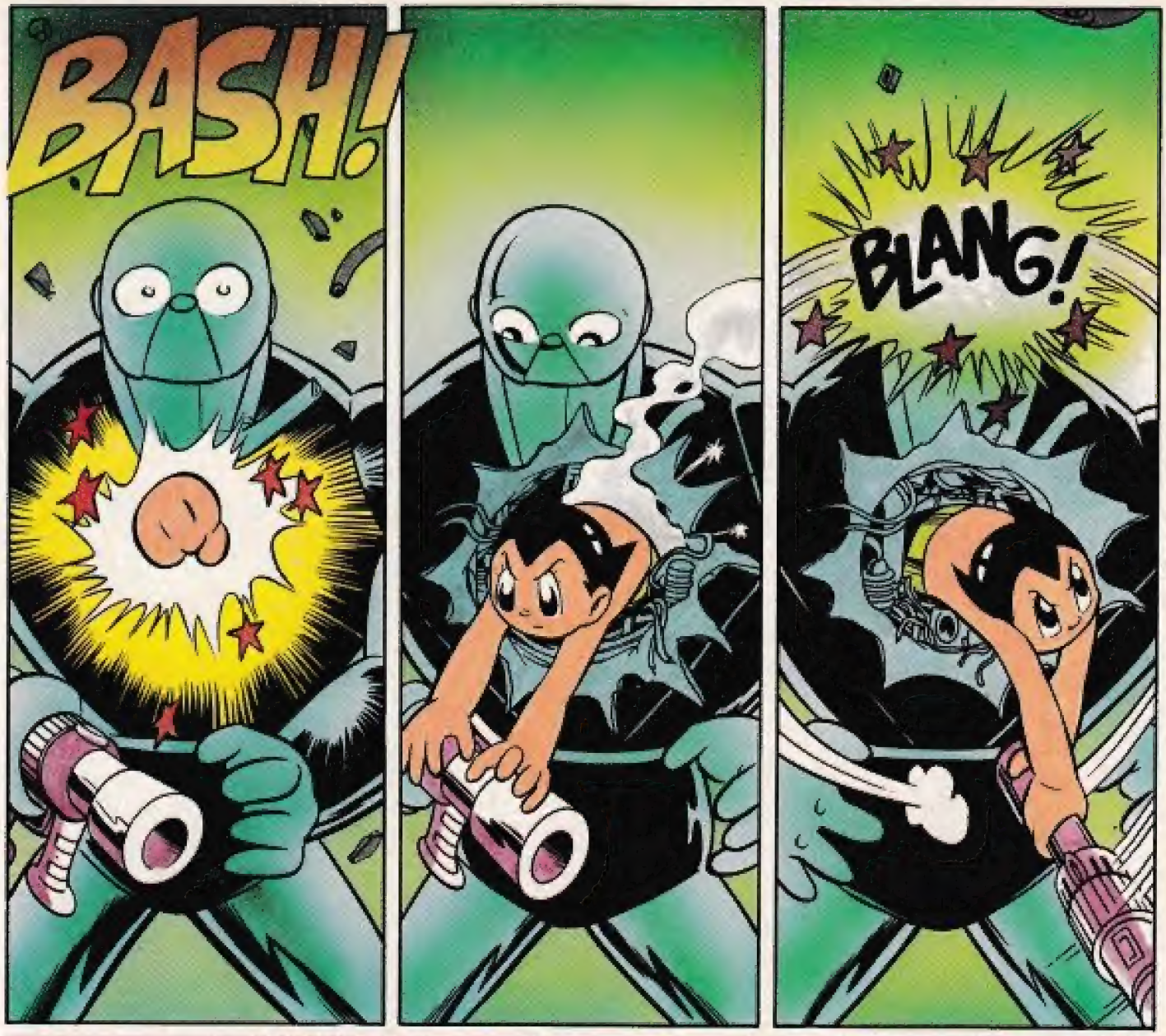

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE, CHIEF?!
DON'T KNOW YET, INSPECTOR. WE GOT SOME REPORTS OF SHOOTING GOING ON AROUND HERE! THE FIRE CHIEF SAYS THERE WAS AN EXPLOSION NEAR THE 50th FLOOR!
COPS! EVERY FLATFOOT IN TOWN MUST'VE HEARD THAT BLAST! I SHOULD'VE KNOWN WATCHDOG AND MONK WOULD SCREW UP!
I CAN'T RAISE 'EM BY PHONE OR RADIO, RIZZO, TOO.
COPS ARE NO WORRY. IT'LL TAKE 'EM HOURS TO GET UP HERE, WE'LL BE LONG GONE BY THEN, BUT SOMEBODY'S ALREADY IN THE BUILDING!
SOMEBODY TRICKY, OR LUCKY, ENOUGH TO GET PAST THOSE THREE DOWNSTAIRS. YOU TWO GO ON UP AND FINISH THE JOB. I'M GOING DOWNSTAIRS TO DO SOME HUNTING!
SHOULD WE ICE THESE GUYS?
NO. OUR CONTRACT ONLY CALLS FOR THE COUNCIL. UNNECESSARY EXTRAS ARE BAD FOR BUSINESS.

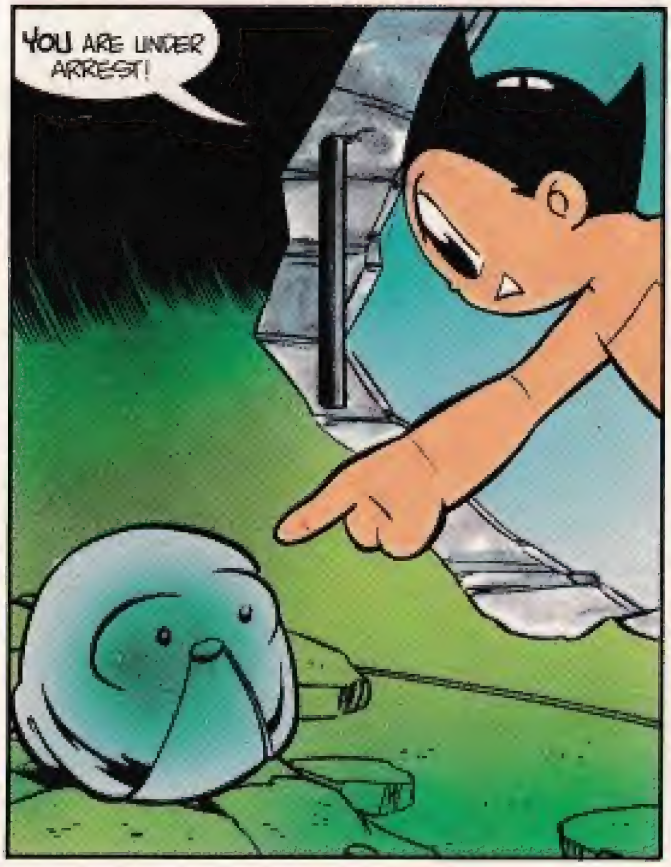
NO UNNECESSARY EXTRAS. BUT IF YOU OFFED MY PALS...
THAT MAKES IT PERSONAL.

AAAH... EKG SENSOR SAYS YOU'RE ON THIS FLOOR...

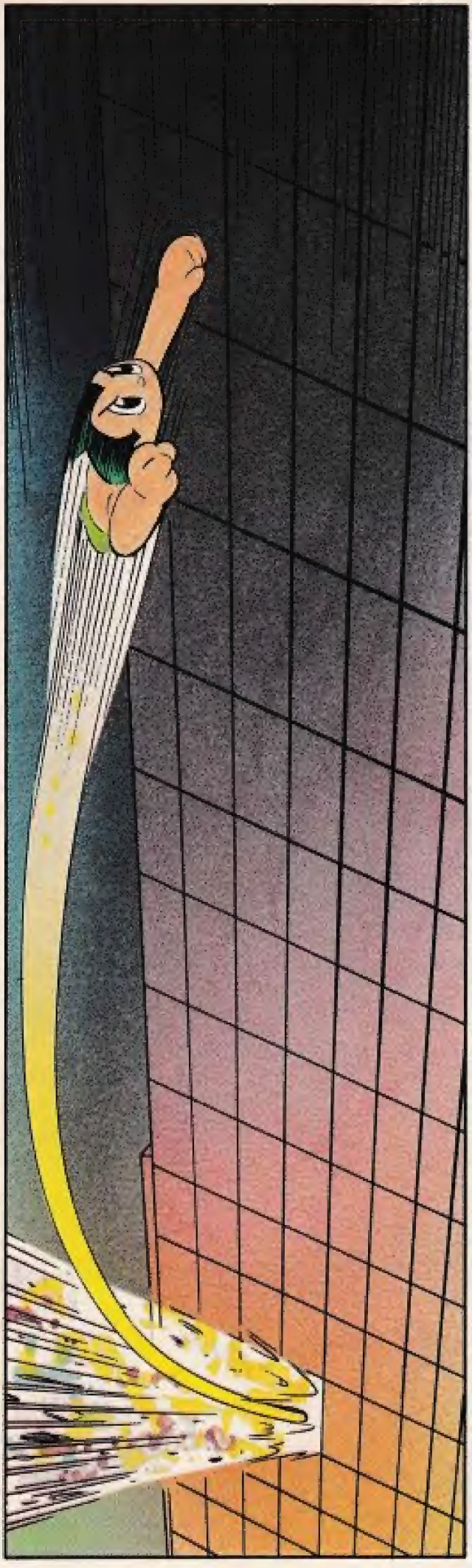
AND IN THAT DIRECTION.

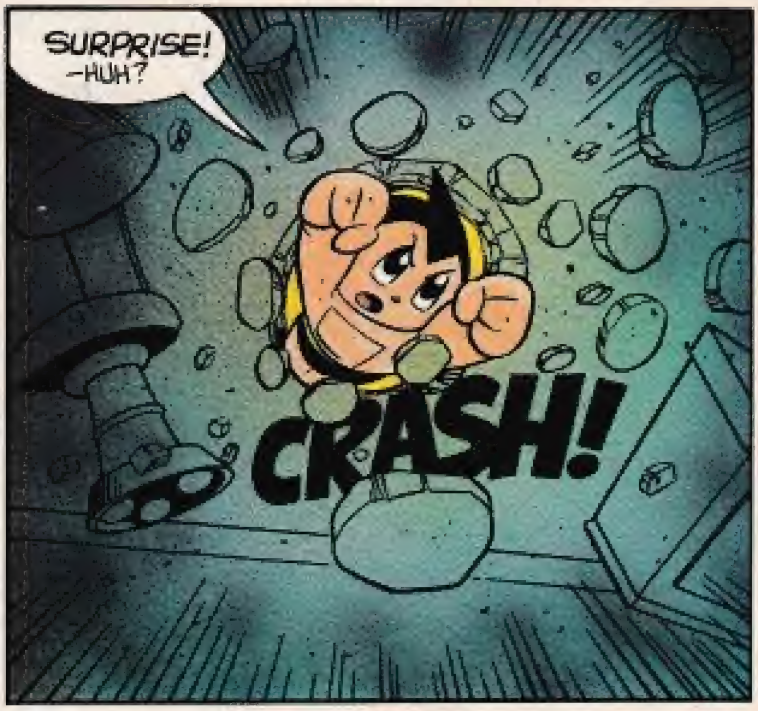

"NOT ONLY FOR FLYING, THE POWERFUL AIR JETS FROM ASTRO'S ARMS CAN BE USED OFFENSIVELY AS WELL."
FOOOOSH!
BUDDA! BUDDA! BUDDA! BUDDA!
"HIS OUTER SHELL IS MADE OF VARIOUS LAYERS OF TOUGH MEMORY PLASTICS. IT PROTECTS HIM FROM EXTREME TEMPERATURES, AS WELL AS PENETRATION BY ALL BUT THE HIGHEST CALIBER PROJECTILES."
BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG!
NOW TO FINISH HIM!
WHERE'D THAT LIL' BUGGER GO?


BASH!
BLANG!


YOU ARE UNDER ARREST!

LET'S SEE IF THERE ARE ANY MORE OF THESE GUYS AROUND...HMM, MAYBE I SHOULD'VE BEEN GENTLER WITH THIS THING.
UH-OH, I CAN'T BE SURE OF THIS READING, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THERE ARE MORE UPSTAIRS!

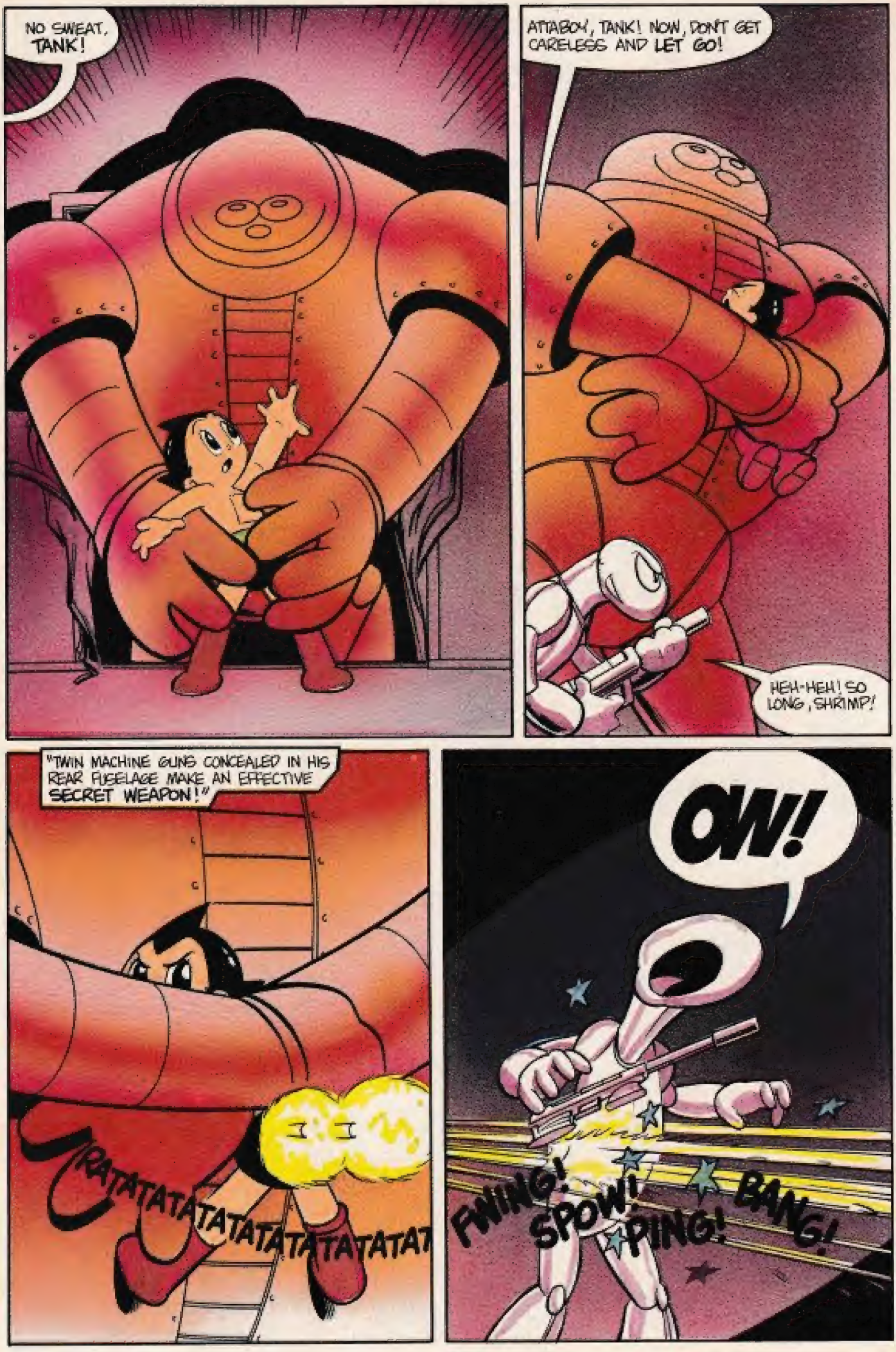



SURPRISE!
-HUH?
CRASH!

YOU'LL NEVER GET AWAY WITH THIS, YOU DIRTY...
SHUT UP, GEORGE! THAT'S ASTRO BOY! HURRY, ASTRO, THERE ARE MORE OF 'EM UPSTAIRS! THEY'RE OUT TO GET THE WORLD COUNCIL!

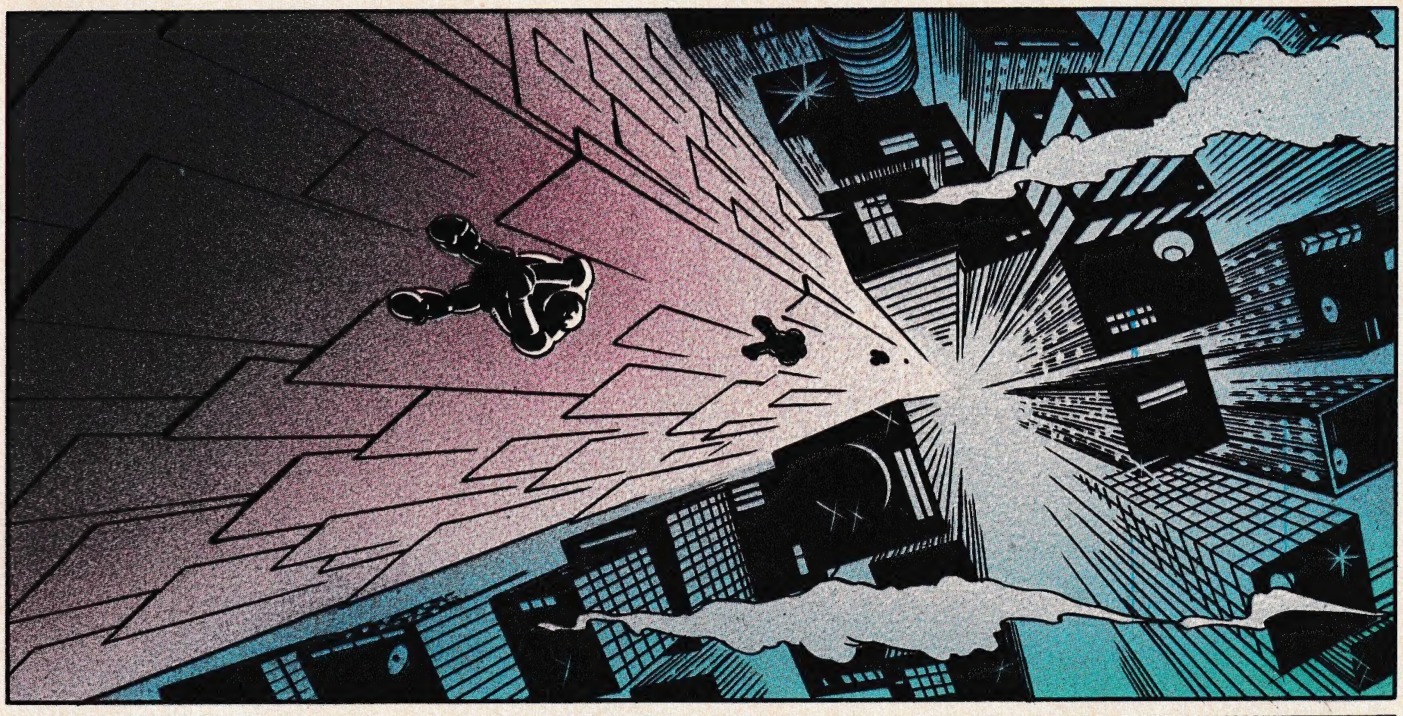
CHIEF, IS IT REALLY YOU? WE'VE FINALLY GOTTEN THROUGH! WHAT'S GOING ON?!

NOW LISTEN CAREFULLY, WE'VE MADE IT INTO THE LOBBY, AND WE'VE FOUND WHAT'S LEFT OF A ROBOT. WE BELIEVE THAT THERE ARE MORE IN THE BUILDING AND THEY'RE AFTER YOUR CHARGES. BE ON ALERT! WE BELIEVE THEY'RE EXTREMELY DANGEROUS!
HMMF! COULDA TOLD YA. NO GOOD 'BOTS!
YAAH! KILLER 'BOT!
CREEEEK!
AAAAH! BLAST IT!
HEY! I'M ON YOUR SIDE!
HEH-HEH! FOOLS!
LOOK OUT!
BUDDA-BUDDA-BUDDA!
HAH! WHATTA COUPLA SAPS! NOW TO FINISH THE JOB!
YOU'LL HAVE TO GET PAST ME FIRST!

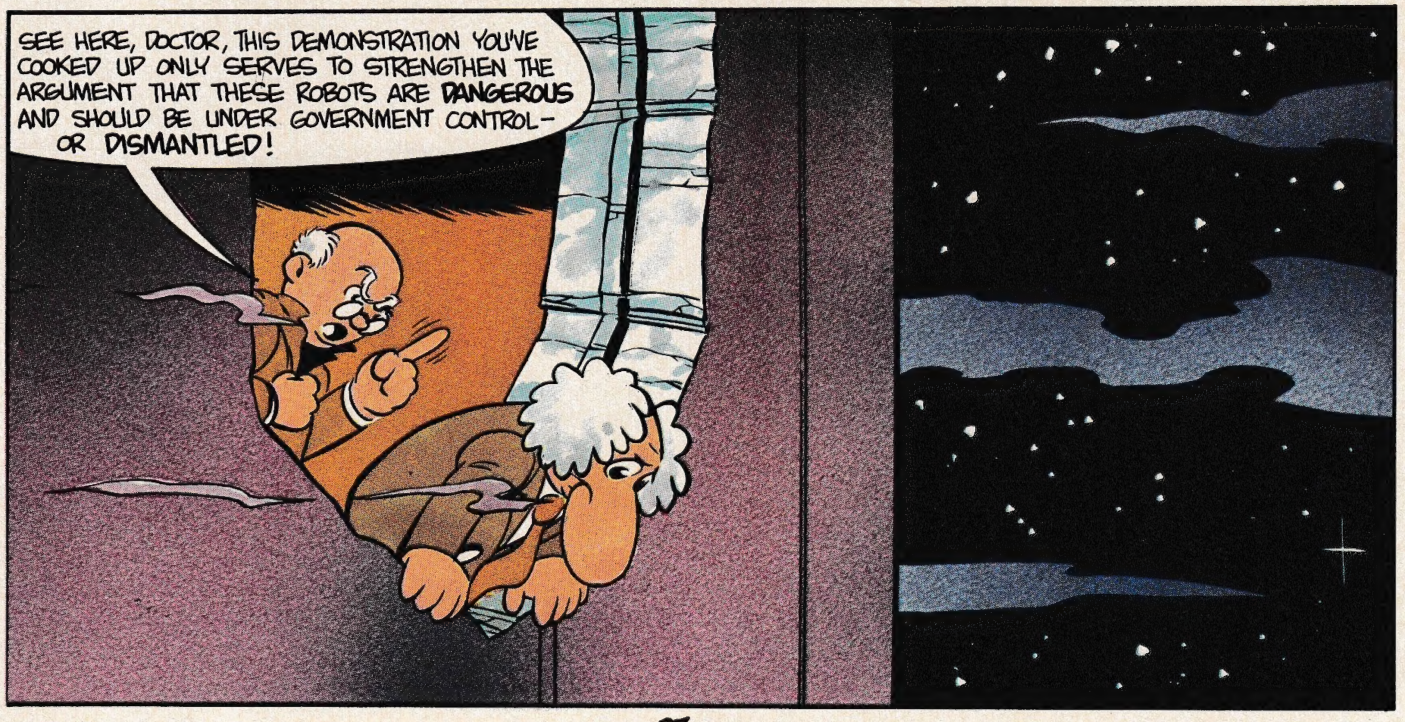

NO SWEAT, TANK!
ATTABOY, TANK! NOW, DON'T GET CARELESS AND LET GO!
HEH-HEH! SO LONG, SHRIMP!
"TWIN MACHINE GUNS CONCEALED IN HIS REAR FUSELAGE MAKE AN EFFECTIVE SECRET WEAPON!"
RATATATATATATATATATAT
OW!
PWING! SPOW! PING! BANG!

AND WITH A PEAK OUTPUT OF 100,000 HORSEPOWER, HIS STEEL-MUSCLED FRAME CAN...
ENOUGH!
COME NOW, DOCTOR! EVEN IF IT COULD HAVE ALL THESE GADGETS BUILT IN, ARE WE TO BELIEVE THAT SUCH A SMALL ROBOT COULD BE MADE SO POWERFUL?
PERHAPS YOU COULD ARRANGE A LITTLE DEMONSTRATION FOR US?
DID YOU HEAR SOMETHING?
K-ROOM!

ER... IF YOU INSIST, COUNCILMAN!



SEE ANYTHING?
JUST PIECES.


SEE HERE, DOCTOR, THIS DEMONSTRATION YOU'VE COOKED UP ONLY SERVES TO STRENGTHEN THE ARGUMENT THAT THESE ROBOTS ARE DANGEROUS AND SHOULD BE UNDER GOVERNMENT CONTROL— OR DISMANTLED!

EXCUSE ME, GENTLEMEN.
THERE ARE SOME INJURED MEN IN HERE THAT I HAVE TO GET TO THE RESCUE COPTERS.
YOU COULDN'T BE MORE WRONG, SIR. IN THE FIRST PLACE, ALL CYBOTS ARE NOW FREE AND EQUAL CITIZENS BY LAW. WHAT WE NEED **NOW** IS MORE LEGISLATION TO INTELLIGENTLY **DEAL** WITH THAT FACT.
BUT THAT'S BESIDE THE POINT. ASTRO **HELPS**. NOT BECAUSE HE'S **ORDERED** OR **FORCED** OR **THREATENED**, BUT BECAUSE HE HONESTLY **WANTS** TO HELP.
HE FEELS THAT IT'S HIS RESPONSIBILITY, AS A **FREE** CITIZEN, TO IMPROVE THE WELFARE AND PRESERVE THE FREEDOM OF **EVERY** CITIZEN.
AND **THAT** LADIES AND GENTLEMAN, IS AN EXAMPLE WE **ALL** CAN FOLLOW.
END

ASTRO FANS!

Another warm welcome to the Astro Boy letters pages. Quite the colorful stuff, huh? Yeah, we're really moving up in the world. But enough chit-chat. Onward to the fan mail!

Dear Astro-Pals,

Hi there! I just started reading ASTRO BOY comics, and I think they are great! My parents tell me how they watched ASTRO BOY on tv, and I'm glad I can experience what they have experienced years before me.

This may shock you (or more likely, your readers), but I get along with my older brother, just like ASTRO GIRL gets along with ASTRO BOY! I look up to him alot (he's 12 and I'm 10), but instead of reading me bed-time stories, he lets me read his ASTRO BOY comic books. (he buys them, he keeps the posters from the middle, and hangs them in his room).

I hope we can learn more about Astro Girl (I'm kind of like her, when I get into mischief)-. How old is Astro Boy and Astro Girl? Or should I say, how old are they supposed to be, since Astro Girl is about 4 issues old (or was she in the old tv cartoons?) and Astro Boy is how old now? 25 years?

Keep up the great work, and please keep the bed-time stories in there!

An Astro Girl look-alike,

Jackie Lee Weber
PO Box 129 CPO
Niagra Falls, NY
14304-0129

PS Please print my address, because I want other Astro-Pals to write me.

Thanks for your letter, Jackie. Maybe when you gt a little older, you can buy your own copies of ASTRO BOY. Then you can hang the posters in your own room.

Astro Boy and Astro Girl should be about the same ages as you and your brother. On the other hand, Astro was created in 1951, which would make him 38 years old. However, these stories take place in the future, so Astro hasn't even been born yet! Confused?

Dear Astro People,

When I was in Japan, I didn't see one person with two black pointy things on their head.

Sincerely,
Lon Wolf
2118 Ryan's Run East
Maple Shade, NJ
08052

You should see me in the morning after a wild party. But seeeriously, one of the most commonly asked questions about Astro is: "What gives with the points on his head?" The answers I've come up with are:

1. Maybe you didn't see them in Japan, but I see all kinds of goofy haircuts around. Young people these days! I'll tell ya..

2. Who knows what the fashions will be fifty years from now?

3. They're antennae, to help Astro get better radio reception.

4. The unique aerodynamics they create, help Astro in flight.

Come on Lon, you didn't really go to Japan, did you?

Dear NOW,

I just finished reading Astro Boy #16 and, once again, I must praise you for a job well done. There's nary a fault I can find with this book.

The lush colors used in pages 19 and 20 were a stroke of genius. It really conveyed the anticipation of the spectators watching Astro's launch into space. Hope he makes it ok.

And his butting heads with Gen. Hawkins was great. More people should stand up to Gung Ho folks like her, as Astro did.

The bit with the clones was hilarious, too. Other than that, all of this month's AB issue rates a ten. Nice cover, too.

Another letter will arrive soon in regards to The Speed Racer Movie. Till then, Take it easy, and as ELO says, "You shine a little love in my life and let me see!"

Steven Acevedo
Bronx, NY

Steve, we truly appreciate your interest in NOW comics and your letters.

Dear Astro Guys,

Hi! It's me again! Congratulations on #15 and on Ken Steacy's wife, Joan for #14. Fabulous, just fabulous. Mr. M. Daniels of Capital Heights, MD got the right words to the theme song but missed a few sentences. Here is the complete theme from the tv show:

There you go Astro Boy
On your fighting to say
Rocket high to the sky

Stop the music! Stop the music! (Apologies to Jack Nelson for interuping his letter)

Eversince Mr. Daniel's letter was printed a few issues ago, we have been hounded by annoyed readers claiming that they knew the real lyrics by heart. Although Mr. Nelson has been the closest so far, he was still a bit off the mark. So let me take this opportunity to settle the matter. Set it in stone. Here at last are the real lyrics by Mr. Don Rockwell. It's a golden oldie, the one and on!y theme song to the original ASTRO BOY cartoon show:

There you go Astro Boy
On your flight into space
Rocket high through the sky
What adventure soon you would face?
Astro Boy bombs away
On your mission today
Here's a countdown and a blastoff
Everything is go Astro Boy
Astro Boy as you fly
Strange new worlds you will find
Atom celled, jet propelled
Fighting monsters high in the sky
Astro Boy there you go
Will you fight friends or foes?
Cosmic ranger, life of danger
Everything is go Astro Boy
Brave cheer you
You're a hero
As you go go go Astro Boy!
One more time!
Astro Boy set the pace
On your flight into space
What can I do
To be like you?
And become a real Astro Boy

Wasn't that inspirational? Thank you Tatsuo Takai and his orchestra.

Jack Nelson
Walhalla,ND

Dear Guys,

It is guys, isn't it? I haven't seen mention of any females' names anywhere. Anyway, onto Astro Boy #17. It was um, er, interesting. Maybe I am spoiled or something, but the artwork this issue just wsn't as sharp and clean as previous issues. Brian did a first rate job, I'll admit, but it just wasn't quite as nice as Ken's stuff. Sorry to say that, but that's how I feel. I did like the alien monster out in space, though. Brian did a good job on that. Everthing else in the book was nice, too, especially the way that he drew spud.

Is it true that Ken is no longer going to be associated with Astro? If it is true, I wish him the best of luck on whatever he is going to do next and hope the next writer is as good as Ken.

This issue was the most emotion jerking issues that I have read. Both sadness (the destruction of Astro) and happiness (the cybots may have a new start on life). Quite a way for Ken to end his reign on the book.

Well, that's all for now. Keep up the terrific work. Hope the new creative team is as good as the last.

Yours,
Galen West

Thanks for the good will, Galen. I'm afraid you heard right about Ken Steacy. He will no longer be working on Astro Boy. I can assure you, though, that the quality and freshness of the book will, not only not suffer, but just may improve.

Next issue! Astro goes on a rescue mission to Mars and is forced to fight a deadly electro-monster!